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| IBM CORP (AP) C/O AMY PATTILLO P. O. BOX 161327 AUSTIN, TX 78716 | | | EXAMINER KESSLER, MATTHEW E | |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/777,646

Applicant(s)

KEOHANE ET AL.

Examiner

Matthew E. Kessler

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02/26/2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 February 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/12/2004.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the application filed on February 12th, 2004. Claims 1-19 are pending examination.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement filed 02/12/2004 fails to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP § 609 because although the references listed appear to be in relation to the current patent application 10/777646 Keohane et al. it is stated as being in application of "Grubbs et al.". It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered as to the merits. Applicant is advised that the date of any re-submission of any item of information contained in this information disclosure statement or the submission of any missing element(s) will be the date of submission for purposes of determining compliance with the requirements based on the time of filing the statement, including all certification requirements for statements under 37 CFR 1.97(e). See MPEP § 609.05(a).

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to because Figures 2, 5, and 7 contain labels that have an unclear subject matter. In Figure 2 it is unclear that label 200 is identifying the entire system. In Figure 5 label 512 is not clear that it is identifying the email, an element of the email, or the highlighting of the email. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are

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required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

4. The second sentence of paragraph [0009] is confusing. As it reads now, it is unclear as to what the suggested folder would be named. Examiner assumes that the applicant intended the second sentence of paragraph [0009] to read: “the suggested folder is the folder with the same name as the detected suggested folder name.”

Appropriate correction is required.

5. It is requested that the applicant includes the reference number for “sender M” in the description in paragraph [0064].

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Appropriate correction is requested.

6. Additionally, applicant does not provide adequate description for what occurs in block 1130 of Figure 11. Applicant describes block 1130 as “automatically jumping through the recipient folder directory to display a target folder in the recipient folder directory.” Examiner is unclear as to what automatically jumping through the recipient folder directory does, or how it enables the ability to display a target folder in the recipient folder directory.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 11, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Scian et al. (Scian, hereinafter) US Patent Application 2006/0026236.

As to claim 1, Scian teaches a method for providing electronic message filing recommendations comprising (the abstract states “in a computer system, a system, method and computer program product for pre-selecting a folder for a current message. Paragraph [0001]

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also states that “the present invention relates generally to message storage and more particularly relates to pre-selecting a folder from a plurality of folders for storing a message.”):

filtering an electronic message to determine at least one suggested folder for filing said electronic message from among a plurality of filing folders in a messaging filing directory (paragraph [0004] teaches that “in some contexts, it may be desirable to pre-select a folder for a current message based on how all of the existing messages have been stored. Fore example, it may be desirable to order all of the messages on the system according to the attribute of these messages – this attribute might be the sender or the subject or some other attribute.” In paragraph [0007] it describes a “message comparison module for comparing a comparison criterion, derived from the current message, with the associated pre-selection criterion of at least one entry in the folder pre-selection cache to determine a matching entry in the folder pre-selection cache.” It is interpreted that finding a matching entry in the folder pre-selection cache, which is determined by the message comparison module is filtering the electronic message to determine a suggested folder.); and

distinguishing said at least one suggested folder from a remainder of said plurality of filing folders, such that a recommendation of relevant folders for filing said electronic message is provided (paragraph [0027] describes a user interface which distinguishes the recommended folder. It states “this user interface includes a means for displaying the current message as well as the pre-selected folder.”).

As to claim 3, Scian teaches the method according to claim 1 for providing electronic message filing recommendations, wherein distinguishing said at least one suggested folder from

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a remainder of said plurality of filing folders further comprises (Scian teaches all the limitations of claim 1):

graphically distinguishing said at least one suggested folder from said remainder of said plurality of filing folders (paragraph [0027] describes a user interface that distinguishes the recommended folder. It states “this user interface includes a means for displaying the current message as well as the pre-selected folder.”).

As to claim 6, Scian teaches a system for providing electronic message filing recommendations comprising (the abstract states “in a computer system, a system, method and computer program product for pre-selecting a folder for a current message. Paragraph [0001] also states that “the present invention relates generally to message storage and more particularly relates to pre-selecting a folder from a plurality of folders for storing a message.”):

a filtering controller for filtering an electronic message to determine at least one suggested folder for filing said electronic message from among a plurality of filing folders in a messaging filing directory (paragraph [0004] suggests that “in some contexts, it may be desirable to pre-select a folder for a current message based on how all of the existing messages have been stored. Fore example, it may be desirable to order all of the messages on the system according to the attribute of these messages – this attribute might be the sender or the subject or some other attribute.” In paragraph [0007] it describes a “message comparison module for comparing a comparison criterion, derived from the current message, with the associated pre-selection criterion of at least one entry in the folder pre-selection cache to determine a matching entry in the folder pre-selection cache.” It is interpreted that finding a matching entry in the folder pre-

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selection cache, which is determined by the message comparison module is the filtering controller.); and

an output controller for distinguishing said at least one suggested folder from a remainder of said plurality of filing folders, such that a recommendation of relevant folders for filing said electronic message is provided (paragraph [0027] describes a user interface which distinguishes the recommended folder. It states “this user interface includes a means for displaying the current message as well as the pre-selected folder.” The graphical user interface in conjunction with the message comparison module create a system where the pre-selected folder is displayed and as such is distinguished from the plurality of remaining folders.).

As to claim 8, Scian teaches the system according to claim 6 for providing electronic message filing recommendations, wherein said output controller further comprises (Scian teaches all the limitations of claim 6):

means for graphically distinguishing said at least one suggested folder from said remainder of said plurality of filing folders (paragraph [0027] describes a user interface that distinguishes the recommended folder. It states “this user interface includes a means for displaying the current message as well as the pre-selected folder.”).

As to claim 11, Scian teaches a computer program product for providing electronic message filing recommendations comprising (paragraph [0011] describes “there is provided a computer software product for configuring a computer to pre-select a folder for a current

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message.” It is interpreted that pre-selecting a folder and recommending a filing location is the same.):

a recording medium (paragraph [0011] “the computer program product comprises a recording medium”);

means, recorded on said recording medium, for filtering an electronic message to determine at least one suggested folder for filing said electronic message from among a plurality of filing folders in a messaging filing directory (paragraph [0011] describes “for at least one entry in the folder pre-selection cache, comparing a comparison criterion, obtained from the current message, with the associated pre-selection criterion to determine a matching entry in the folder pre-selection cache and, pre-selecting the folder identified by the associated folder identification of the matching entry when the message comparison module determines the matching entry in the folder pre-selection cache..” It is interpreted that the comparison according to a particular criteria that occurs in the system is filtering the message to determine at least one suggested folder for filing or in this case pre-selecting a folder.); and

means, recorded on said recording medium, for distinguishing said at least one suggested folder from a remainder of said plurality of filing folders, such that a recommendation of relevant folders for filing said electronic message is provided (paragraph [0027] describes a user interface which distinguishes the recommended folder. It states “this user interface includes a means for displaying the current message as well as the pre-selected folder.” The graphical user interface in conjunction with the message comparison module create a system where the pre-selected folder is displayed and as such is distinguished from the plurality of remaining folders.).

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As to claim 13, Scian teaches he computer program product according to claim 11 for providing electronic message filing recommendations, wherein said means for distinguishing said at least one suggested folder from a remainder of said plurality of filing folders further comprise (Scian teaches all the limitations of claim 11):

means, recorded on said recording medium, for graphically distinguishing said at least one suggested folder from said remainder of said plurality of filing folders (paragraph [0027] describes a user interface that distinguishes the recommended folder. It states “this user interface includes a means for displaying the current message as well as the pre-selected folder.”).

7. Claims 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mousseau et al. (hereinafter Mousseau) USP.2002/0120696.

As to claim 14, Mousseau teaches a method for facilitating electronic message filing comprising (paragraph [0099] states explicitly “Organizing and storing messages in the mobile devices and the host system is set forth in Figs. 6 through 18.” It is understood that organizing and storing messages is the same thing as facilitating electronic message filing.):

detecting an electronic message created by a sender (paragraph [0099] states “Software on the mobile device and the host system organizes the messages so that filing a message on either the mobile device or the host system will be recognized at the other end either by commands...” It is understood that in this case the host operates as the sender of the message and the message is “recognized” by the other end.);

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attaching a suggested filing folder name to said electronic message (paragraph [0100] states that “the message header preferably includes tags such as a message ID and a folder ID.” It is understood here that the electronic message that is sent includes in it a folder ID that determines the filing location of the message.);

and sending said electronic message with said suggested filing folder name, such that efficient filing of said electronic message by a recipient of said electronic message in a folder with said suggested filing folder name is facilitated (paragraph [0106] describes the steps of retrieving the messages from the host system. It also describes how these messages that are received include folder IDs and in paragraph [0100] it is taught that “the folder ID is a tag that contains the unique ID of the folder in which the message is to be stored.”).

As to claim 15, Mousseau teaches a system for facilitating electronic message filing comprising (Figures 1-4 describe the system which facilitates electronic message filing):

means for detecting an electronic message created by a sender (paragraph [0099] states “Software on the mobile device and the host system organizes the messages so that filing a message on either the mobile device or the host system will be recognized at the other end either by commands...” It is understood that in this case the host operates as the sender of the message and the message is “recognized” by the other end.);

means for attaching a suggested filing folder name to said electronic message (paragraph [0100] states that “the message header preferably includes tags such as a message ID and a folder ID.” It is understood here that the electronic message that is sent includes in it a folder ID that determines the filing location of the message.);

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and means for sending said electronic message with said suggested filing folder name, such that efficient filing of said electronic message by a recipient of said electronic message in a folder with said suggested filing folder name is facilitated (paragraph [0100] states that “the message header preferably includes tags such as a message ID and a folder ID.” It is understood here that the electronic message that is sent includes in it a folder ID that determines the filing location of the message.).

As to claim 16, Mousseau teaches a computer program product for facilitating electronic message filing comprising (paragraph [0099] states “Software on the mobile device and the host system organizes the messages so that filing a message on either the mobile device or the host system will be recognized at the other end...” This software is a computer program that facilitates electronic message filing.):

means, recorded on said recording medium, for detecting an electronic message created by a sender (paragraph [0099] states “Software on the mobile device and the host system organizes the messages so that filing a message on either the mobile device or the host system will be recognized at the other end either by commands...” It is understood that in this case the host operates as the sender of the message and the message is “recognized” by the other end.);

means, recorded on said recording medium, for attaching a suggested filing folder name to said electronic message (paragraph [0100] states that “the message header preferably includes tags such as a message ID and a folder ID.” It is understood here that the electronic message that is sent includes in it a folder ID that determines the filing location of the message.); and

means, recorded on said recording medium, for sending said electronic message with said suggested filing folder name, such that efficient filing of said electronic message by a recipient of said electronic message in a folder with said suggested filing folder name is facilitated (paragraph [0100] states that “the message header preferably includes tags such as a message ID and a folder ID.” It is understood here that the electronic message that is sent includes in it a folder ID that determines the filing location of the message.).

As to claim 17, Mousseau teaches a method for efficient electronic message filing comprising (paragraph [0099] states explicitly “Organizing and storing messages in the mobile devices and the host system is set forth in Figs. 6 through 18.” It is understood that organizing and storing messages is the same thing as effective electronic message filing.):

receiving an electronic message with a suggested filing folder name (paragraph [0106] states that “the list of messages with unique IDs received from the store is referred to as messages ‘A’.” Here it is clear that messages are being received by the store, which in this case, is the host. Furthermore these are the same messages that also include a folder ID that is included in the message header.);

and automatically filing said electronic message in a folder with said suggested filing folder name within a message filing directory, such that filing of said electronic message is efficiently controlled (paragraph [0100] mentions, “the folder ID is a tag that contains the unique ID of the folder in which the message is to be stored.” This is an automated process and is described in detail in Figs. 6 through 18.).

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As to claim 18, Mousseau teaches a system for efficient electronic message filing comprising (Figures 1-4 describe the system which facilitates electronic message filing):

means for receiving an electronic message with a suggested filing folder name (paragraph [0106] states that “the list of messages with unique IDs received from the store is referred to as messages ‘A’.” Here it is clear that messages are being received by the store, which in this case, is the host. Furthermore these are the same messages that also include a folder ID that is included in the message header.); and

means for automatically filing said electronic message in a folder with said suggested filing folder name within a message filing directory, such that filing of said electronic message is efficiently controlled (paragraph [0100] mentions, “the folder ID is a tag that contains the unique ID of the folder in which the message is to be stored.” This is an automated process and is described in detail in Figs. 6 through 18.).

As to claim 19, Mousseau teaches a computer program product, recorded on a computer readable medium, for efficient electronic message filing comprising (paragraph [0099] states “Software on the mobile device and the host system organizes the messages so that filing a message on either the mobile device or the host system will be recognized at the other end...” This software is a computer program that facilitates electronic message filing.):

means for receiving an electronic message with a suggested filing folder name (paragraph [0106] states that “the list of messages with unique IDs received from the store is referred to as messages ‘A’.” Here it is clear that messages are being received by the store, which in this case,

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is the host. Furthermore these are the same messages that also include a folder ID that is included in the message header.); and

means for automatically filing said electronic message in a folder with said suggested filing folder name within a message filing directory(paragraph [0100] mentions, "the folder ID is a tag that contains the unique ID of the folder in which the message is to be stored." This is an automated process and is described in detail in Figs. 6 through 18.).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out

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the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

8. Claims 2, 7 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scian as applied to claims 1, 6, and 11 respectively, and further in view of Mousseau.

As to claim 2, Scian teaches all of the limitations of the method according to claim 1 for providing electronic message filing recommendations, wherein filtering said electronic message to determine at least one suggested folder for filing said electronic message further comprises: but does not teach detecting a suggested folder name specified by a sender in said electronic message; and specifying said at least one suggested folder to include a folder with said suggested folder name.

However in an analogous art, Mousseau teaches detecting a suggested folder name specified by a sender in said electronic message (paragraph [0099] teaches "Software on the mobile device and the host system organizes the messages so that filing a message on either the mobile device or the host system will be recognized at the other end either by commands..." It is understood that in this case the host operates as the sender of the message and the message is "recognized" by the other end.); and

specifying said at least one suggested folder to include a folder with said suggested folder name (paragraph [0100] states that "the message header preferably includes tags such as a

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message ID and a folder ID.” It is understood here that the electronic message that is sent includes in it a folder ID that determines the filing location of the message.).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Mousseau’s folder ID in the message’s header with Scian’s method for providing electronic message filing recommendations because as Mousseau suggests these steps are “to determine the proper folder placement of the message[s]”, paragraph [0107] .

As to claim 7, Scian teaches all of the limitations of the system according to claim 6 for providing electronic message filing recommendations, wherein filtering controller further comprises: but does not teach means for detecting a suggested folder name specified by a sender in said electronic message; and means for specifying said at least one suggested folder to include a folder with said suggested folder name.

However in an analogous art, Mousseau teaches means for detecting a suggested folder name specified by a sender in said electronic message (paragraph [0099] states “Software on the mobile device and the host system organizes the messages so that filing a message on either the mobile device or the host system will be recognized at the other end either by commands...” It is understood that in this case the host operates as the sender of the message and the message is “recognized” by the other end.); and

means for specifying said at least one suggested folder to include a folder with said suggested folder name (paragraph [0100] states that “the message header preferably includes tags such as a message ID and a folder ID.” It is understood here that the electronic message that is sent includes in it a folder ID that determines the filing location of the message.).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Mousseau's method of including a folder ID in the message's header with Scian's method for providing electronic message filing recommendations because as Mousseau suggests these steps are "to determine the proper folder placement of the message[s], paragraph [0107] .

As to claim 12, Scian teaches all of the limitations of the computer program product according to claim 11 for providing electronic message filing recommendations, wherein said means for filtering said electronic message to determine at least one suggested folder for filing said electronic message further comprise: but does not teach means, recorded on said recording medium, for detecting a suggested folder name specified by a sender in said electronic message; and means, recorded on said recording medium, for specifying said at least one suggested folder to include a folder with said suggested folder name.

However in an analogous art, Mousseau teaches means, recorded on said recording medium, for detecting a suggested folder name specified by a sender in said electronic message (paragraph [0099].states "Software on the mobile device and the host system organizes the messages so that filing a message on either the mobile device or the host system will be recognized at the other end either by commands..." It is understood that in this case the host operates as the sender of the message and the message is "recognized" by the other end.); and

means, recorded on said recording medium, for specifying said at least one suggested folder to include a folder with said suggested folder name (paragraph [0100] states that "the message header preferably includes tags such as a message ID and a folder ID." It is understood

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here that the electronic message that is sent includes in it a folder ID that determines the filing location of the message.).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Mousseau's method of including a folder ID in the message's header with Scian's method for providing electronic message filing recommendations because as Mousseau suggests these steps are "to determine the proper folder placement of the message[s], paragraph [0107] .

9. Claims 4 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scian as applied to claims 1 and 6 respectively above, and further in view of Horvitz et al. (Horvitz hereinafter), USP 7,039,642.

As to claim 4, Scian teaches all the limitations of the method according to claim 1 for providing electronic message filing recommendations, but does not teach automatically expanding a display directory of said plurality of filing folders to display said at least one suggested folder.

However, in an analogous art, Horvitz teaches automatically expanding a display directory of said plurality of filing folders to display said at least one suggested folder (In Column 10, lines 47-67 Horvitz describes Figures 8 and 9 which show an output display which shows the candidate list of filing locations. Although the paragraph says this is a reduced subset of directories, it is interpreted that providing a display which shows a reduced subset of directories in addition to the original filing hierarchy is expanding that directory with additional

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information which includes the suggested filing folders. This “reduced subset” in addition to the full list of the directory is the expanded form of the original directory.).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Horvitz’s expanded list of candidate filing locations with Scian’s method for providing electronic message filing recommendations because as suggested by Horvitz in column 10 lines 58-59 “the display provides a sorted list based on expected utility”. Providing a list based upon expected utility will save the user time in filing messages.

As to claim 9, Scian teaches all the limitations of the system according to claim 6 for providing electronic message filing recommendations, but does not teach means for automatically expanding a display directory of said plurality of filing folders to display said at least one suggested folder.

However, in an analogous art, Horvitz teaches means for automatically expanding a display directory of said plurality of filing folders to display said at least one suggested folder (In Column 10, lines 47-67 Horvitz describes Figures 8 and 9 which show an output display which shows the candidate list of filing locations. Although the paragraph says this is a reduced subset of directories, it is interpreted that providing a display which shows a reduced subset of directories in addition to the original filing hierarchy is expanding that directory with additional information which includes the suggested filing folders. This “reduced subset” in addition to the full list of the directory is the expanded form of the original directory.).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Horvitz’s expanded list of candidate filing locations with Scian’s method

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for providing electronic message filing recommendations because as suggested by Horvitz in column 10 lines 58-59 "the display provides a sorted list based on expected utility". Providing a list based upon expected utility will save the user time in filing messages.

10. Claims 5 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scian as applied to claims 1 and 6 respectively above, and further in view of Michael Gleicher's article "Integrating Constraints and Direct Manipulation" appearing in Proceedings 1992 Symposium on Interactive 3D Graphics pages 171-174 (hereinafter Gleicher).

As to claim 5, Scian teaches all the limitations of the method according to claim 1 for providing electronic message filing recommendations, but does not teach responsive to detecting an icon for said particular electronic message dragged into a display region for said plurality of filing folders, automatically positioning said icon over said at least one suggested folder.

However, in an analogous art, Gleicher discloses the combination of snapping techniques and constraint techniques which teaches responsive to detecting an icon for said particular electronic message dragged into a display region for said plurality of filing folders, automatically positioning said icon over said at least one suggested folder. Automatic positing of and icon while dragging is widely know as a type of direct manipulation for user interfaces. Snap-to-locations are frequently used in graphical user interfaces, and in such systems objects which are being dragged will be automatically positioned most often according to a grid location. Gleicher combines such direct manipulation techniques with constraints that can be set to automatically position the object according to the constraint. It is interpreted that applicants system is using a

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constraint based direct manipulation method, where the constraint is the corresponding suggested folder, and the direct manipulation is the dragging of an icon.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Gleicher's constraint based direct manipulation with Scian's method for providing electronic message filing recommendations because as Gleicher suggests in the 1st paragraph of his article that "by integrating constraints with direct manipulation, it is possible to build system that provide the power of explicit representation of geometric relationships and the properties which make direct manipulation so attractive."

As to claim 10, Scian teaches all the limitations of the system according to claim 6 for providing electronic message filing recommendations, but does not teach means responsive to detecting an icon for said particular electronic message dragged into a display region for said plurality of filing folders, for automatically positioning said icon over said at least one suggested folder.

However, in an analogous art, Gleicher discloses the combination of snapping techniques and constraint techniques which teaches means responsive to detecting an icon for said particular electronic message dragged into a display region for said plurality of filing folders, automatically positioning said icon over said at least one suggested folder. Automatic positing of and icon while dragging is widely know as a type of direct manipulation for user interfaces. Snap-to-locations are frequently used in graphical user interfaces, and in such systems objects which are being dragged will be automatically positioned most often according to a grid location. Gleicher combines such direct manipulation techniques with constraints that can be set to automatically

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position the object according to the constraint. It is interpreted that applicant's system is using a constraint based direct manipulation method, where the constraint is the corresponding suggested folder, and the direct manipulation is the dragging of an icon.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Gleicher's constraint based direct manipulation with Scian's method for providing electronic message filing recommendations because as Gleicher suggests in the 1st paragraph of his article "by integrating constraints with direct manipulation, it is possible to build system that provide the power of explicit representation of geometric relationships and the properties which make direct manipulation so attractive."

Conclusion

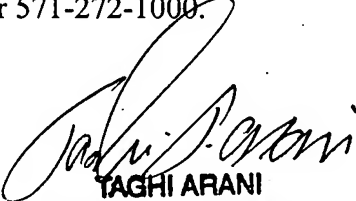
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kulkarni et al. US 20070067399 A1, Rose et al. US 20060168012 A1, Chen et al. US 20050235034 A1, Neiditsch et al. US 20060080278 A1, Schulz et al. US 20060277195 A1, Parsons US 20070061400 A1, Chess et al. US 6560632 B1, Baker US 6546417 B1, Clark et al. US 6725228 B1, and Scannell et al. US 5377354 A

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew E. Kessler whose telephone number is (571) 270-5005. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:30 am - 5:00 pm EST.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Taghi Arani can be reached on (571)272-3787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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9/12/07